

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as shown below in the marked-up paragraphs.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 19 and ending on page 13, line 2 with the following paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 3, in this embodiment, the equalizing filter means 30a is coupled to the microphone 21a, the amplifier 22a, and the analog-to-digital converter 23a, which are from the signal path A in FIG. 2a. The equalizing filter means 30a comprises a first noise source 31, a second noise source 32, a synchronizer 33 for the first and second noise sources 31 and 32, a compensation filter ~~[[33]]~~ **43**, a delay block 34, and an identification block 35, a coefficient determination block 36, and an equalization filter 37. In FIG. 3, except for the coefficient determination block 36 and the equalization filter 37, all the elements which are bounded by a dot line C constitute the means for identifying a transfer function (M), which is one of two major functional components as noted above. The two remaining elements, the coefficient determination block 36 and the equalization filter 37, are corresponding to the means for determining a filtering function (H) depending upon the transfer function (M) identified by the previous means.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 8 and ending on page 14, line 19 with the following paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 3, the second noise source 32 produces a second noise signal as the second noise sample. The second noise signal is synchronized with the first noise signal by the synchronizer 33, and has the same signal properties as the first noise signal, so that two signals are identical at any instant in time. The second noise signal is compensated through the compensation filter ~~[[33]]~~ **43** for the conversion factor (i.e., the known transfer function of the loud speaker 31b) of the first noise signal by the loud speaker 31b, then, delayed by the same amount of time as the above propagation delay time (T) through the delay block 34, and input to the identification block 35 as a second input signal. This second input signal can represent an input in a digital form to the microphone 21a since the amplifier 22a and the A/D converter 23a have flat frequency responses in the frequency interval of interest.